

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W  
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O 241010Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8001

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USINT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 5835

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE FEAR OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NAFFAH CONVOKED ME AT 11 AM THIS MORNING (MAY 24). JUST PRIOR TO THAT EMBOFF GAVE TO DIB INFORMATION CONTAINED JERUSALEM 1067, DIB MOST APPRECIATIVE AND SAID HE WOULD BRING IT IMMEDIATELY TO PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION AND THAT PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF I WERE TO DISCUSS IT WITH NAFFAH.
2. AS ANTICIPATED, NAFFAH'S REASON FOR CONVOKING ME WAS TO MAKE SAME POINTS CONTAINED BEIRUT'S 5777. I QUERIED HIM RE SOURCE OF INFORMATION RE POSSIBLE ISRAELI INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION FROM EGYPTIAN MINISTER WHO HAD SEEN A TELEGRAM FROM THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY PARIS. LATTER REPORTED THAT IN AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH A FRENCH OFFICIAL, ISRAELI OFFICIAL HAD RAISED "ON A PERSONAL BASIS" THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF A PORTION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON. NAFFAH ALSO STATED THAT ANOTHER ARAB OFFICIAL (NOT IDENTIFIED) HAD SPOKEN TO HIM ABOUT THIS.

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3. COINCIDENTALLY I RECEIVED THIS MORNING AN OFFICIAL-

INFORMAL SECRET NODIS LETTER FROM A DEPARTMENT OFFICER INDICATING THAT ON MAY 15 AN ISRAELI EMBASSY OFFICER IN A GENERAL CONVERSATION, STRESSING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, STATED THAT ISRAEL SHOULD OCCUPY A STRIP OF TERRITORY TWENTY MILES IN DEPTH ALONG THE LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER AND CREATE A BUFFER ZONE. THIS, SAID THE ISRAELI, WOULD EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATE CROSS-BORDER FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS. DEPARTMENT OFFICER HIT HIM HARD, POINTING OUT DISASTROUS RESULTS, ETC.

4. I DREW UPON JERUSALEM'S 1067 IN RESPONDING TO NAFFAH'S INQUIRY. HE WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE AND OF COURSE TOOK CREDIT FOR GOL'S POSITION OF NOT REPEAT NOT GOING TO SECURITY COUNCIL. HE THEN, HOWEVER, ELABORATED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE CONTINUATION OF ISRAELI ACTIONS AGAINST LEBANON, WHICH NOW APPEAR TO BE ALMOST DAILY AND CANNOT REPEAT NOT BE DESCRIBED AS REPRISALS FOR QIRYAT SHEMONA OR MA'ALOT. HE ALLEGED THAT DAILY ARTILLERY OR MORTAR ATTACKS AGAINST SOUTHERN LEBANON VILLAGES AND NAVAL ATTACKS AGAINST TYRE REGION AND BOMBINGS WERE INCITING LEBANESE PUBLIC EMOTION. ALL THAT LEBANON COULD DO WOULD BE TO GO TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND HE REALIZED THIS WAS FRUITLESS, COMPLICATING SECRETARY'S EFFORTS, ETC., BUT HE WAS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO DO SO.

5. I EMPHASIZED GIST OF PARA D OF JERUSALEM'S 1067. HE IMPORED, HOWEVER, THAT ANOTHER INDICATION BE MADE TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT THAT WE SUPPORT LEBANESE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO CONTINUED ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIVITY AGAINST LEBANON, AS DISTINCT FROM REPRISALS.

6. ELABORATING ON FOREGOING, NAFFAH STRESSED CRITICALITY OF PERIOD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SYRIAN/ISRAELI DIS-ENGAGEMENT. HE SAID HE HAD RAISED THIS ISSUE AT RECENT ARAB LEAGUE DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING IN CAIRO. HE SPOKE IN GREAT DETAIL WITH HIS EGYPTIAN COUNTERPART WHO SAID THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAD ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SYRIANS AND JORDANIANS IN EFFORT TO  
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REDUCE FEDAYEEN TERRORISM. NAFFAH DID NOT SPEAK DIRECTLY TO SYRIANS, AS THEIR FOREIGN MINISTER WAS NOT THERE. EGYPTIAN, HOWEVER, TOLD HIM THAT SYRIA PROMISED TO CONTROL SAIQAIQA AND HAVE SAIQA SUPPORT 'ARAFAT, WHO HAD RECENTLY VISITED BOTH DAMASCUS AND CAIRO, IN EFFORT TO RESTRAIN FEDAYEEN IMMODERATES. NAFFAH EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT SOME SUCH COORDINATING ACTION COULD BE TAKEN AFTER DISENGAGEMENT BUT THAT IT

WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT ISRAELI MILITARY ACTION AGAINST LEBANESE TERRITORY BE STOPPED. NAFFAH ALSO SAID THAT THERE WERE "DISCREET" DISCUSSIONS GOING ON WITH IRAQIS -- HE WOULD NOT DESCRIBE FURTHER -- RE OBTAINING IRAQI COOPERATION IN THIS EFFORT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT NONE OF HIS FRIENDS BELIEVED THAT ANY LIBYAN HELP TO THIS END MIGHT BE OBTAINED.

7. AS I WAS DEPARTING, NAFFAH TOLD ME THAT HE AND PRIME MINISTER TAKIEDDINE SOLH DEPARTING TOMORROW TO VISIT KUWAIT, ABU DHABI AND BAHRAIN INTER ALIA TO DISCUSS FOREGOING AND SEE IF AT LEAST MORAL SUPPORT OF THESE THREE SMALL GULF STATES COULD BE OBTAINED. HE WILL BE RETURNING NEXT THURSDAY OR FRIDAY MAY 30 OR 31.

8. COMMENT: AS SEEN FROM BEIRUT IT WOULD APPEAR PARIS AND WASHINGTON PERSONAL INITIATIVES BY ISRAELI OFFICIALS WERE NOT QUITE AS PERSONAL AS THEY WERE DESCRIBED. I WOULD THEREFORE HOPE THAT SECRETARY IN A DISCUSSION WITH ISRAELIS MIGHT ONCE AGAIN RAISE THE POINT OF OUR SUPPORT FOR LEBANESE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND OUR BELIEF THAT CONTINUED ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIONS SHOULD BE CURTAILED. GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARAMILITARY FORCES, REVANCHISM, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, COMBAT OPERATIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BEIRUT05835  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740130-0849  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740521/aaaaashq.tel  
**Line Count:** 138  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEBANESE FEAR OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IS, LE  
**To:** STATE DAMASCUS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005